

[28th April 1959]

calamities. Therefore, it is but right and proper that we should not only excuse them, but also offer them our sympathies and condolences.

Elections to Panchayats in Paramakudi taluk

* 98 Q.—SRI K. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state the number of villages where panchayat elections have been held in 1958–59 so far in Paramakudy taluk, Ramanathapuram district?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : Elections have been held so far to 46 panchayats in Paramakudy taluk, Ramanathapuram district, in 1958–59.

SRI K. RAMACHANDRAN : 1959-ம் வருஷத்திற்குள் எவ்வளவு கிராமங்களுக்கு எலெக்ஷன் நடக்கவேண்டும் என்று விண்ணப்பித்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள் ? அதிலே இன்னும் எவ்வளவு பாக்கி இருக்கிறது ? இந்த எலெக்ஷனையெல்லாம் பார்த்து செய்வதற்கு ஏதாவது ஒரு தேதி நிர்ணயம் இருக்கிறதா ?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : இன்னும் எலெக்ஷன் ஆகவேண்டியது 112 கிராமங்களுக்கு. அவைகளுக்கு எவ்வளவு சீக்கிரமாக எலெக்ஷன் நடத்த முடியுமோ அவ்வளவு சீக்கிரமாக நடத்துவதற்குள்ள முயற்சியை அரசாங்கம் எடுக்கிறது.

Pearl diving operation near Tuticorin

* 106 Q.—SRI K. VINAYAKAM (on behalf of SRI A. A. RASHEED and SRI K. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) the number of lives lost during the recent pearl diving operations near Tuticorin;

(b) the manner in which the divers lost their lives; and

(c) whether any compensation was paid to their families?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : (a) One.

(b) On 21st February 1959, the diver collapsed at his third dive and all the attempts to save his life proved futile.

(c) No compensation has been paid so far. The proposals from the Director of Fisheries for the grant of ex-gratia payment are awaited.

Veeriankottai panchayat

* 113 Q.—SRI R. SRINIVASA IYER : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from residents of Veeriankottai in Pattukkottai taluk, Tanjore district, for bifurcating the panchayat of Veeriankottai; and

(b) at what stage the above matter stands at present?

28th April 1959]

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A report has been called for from the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards. The matter will be examined on receipt of the report of the Inspector.

SRI R. SRINIVASA IYER : Are the Government aware that the elections to certain wards in this panchayat have not been held because nobody came forward on account of the fact that this bifurcation was pending? If so, will the Government take steps to expedite the disposal of the matter?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : Yes, Sir, the Government received such complaints. On account of that, the Inspector has been asked to look into the matter and examine the situation now.

High Court Judgment in a criminal revision case

* 126 Q.—K. VINAYAKAM (on behalf of SRI A. A. RASHEED) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to any structures passed by the High Court, Madras, on the Inspector of Local Boards and Municipalities in connection with the disposal of a criminal revision case recently; and

(b) if so, the action taken against the officer?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A copy of the High Court judgment in Criminal Revision Case No. 187 of 1958 was received by the Government and no further action is proposed to be taken in the matter.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : May I know under what circumstances the High Court passed the structures against the concerned Officer? What was the fault committed by the Officer?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : A separate question may be put, Sir.

SRI T. S. RAMASWAMY PILLAI : May I know whether a copy of the judgment will be placed on the table of the House?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : I do not think there is necessity for placing it on the table of the House.

SRI T. S. RAMASWAMY PILLAI : May I know why the Government decided to take no action against the concerned officer?